Times-Virginian
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
IN THE HEART OF VIRGINIA'S DARK TOBACCO BELT
Appomattox, Virginia, 24522
ESTABLISHED IN 1892

W. Lloyd Vaughan..... Editor and Publisher
Mrs. Calvin Robinson.....Assistant To The Publisher
Mrs. Millard G. Stimpson.....News Editor
Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Virginia under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

Address all correspondence to The Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va., 24522.

Subscription rate: $3.00 a year in Appomattox, Buckingham, Prince Edward, Amherst, Campbell, Nelson and Charlotte Counties, elsewhere $3.50, payable in advance.
Single Copy 10¢.

Member: Virginia Press Association

Vepco Asks For 1st Rate Increase In 15 Years

Rising costs in almost every phase of its business have made it necessary for Virginia Electric and Power Company to request a modification of its electric rates which will increase revenues about 10 per cent. This is the first rate increase Vepco has sought in 15 years.

"The proposed increase would provide about $25 million annually before taxes to support the tremendous additional investment in electric plant required to meet Virginia's growing needs," according to Vepco President, John M. McGurn.

For the average residential customer the increase amounts to only about 4 cents per day and the cost of a kilowatt-hour for residential use will still be less than it was in 1954. If granted, the average cost of a kilowatt-hour (the electricity needed to light a 100 - watt bulb for 10 hours) will rise to 2.2 cents, compared with 2.0 cents today and 2.6 cents in 1954, the date of the last increase.

McGurn was quick to point out that "Vepco's electric rates have been reduced 7 times in the last 9 years and these reductions have benefited its customers by more than $57 million in revenues which the company would otherwise have received."

McGurn said, "The economic forces necessitating the increase are sharp rises in construction expenditures, high interest rates the company must pay for money to finance construction and the impact of inflaton generally."

Vepco's construction budget for 1969 will reach a record of $241 million and for the five-year period 1970-74 will aggregate $1.7 billion. "The lead times now required for delivery and construction of major facilities mean Vepco must make firm commitments and payment of large sums long before the project can go into operation and produce revenue," McGurn said.

As an illustration of rising costs, McGurn said that the last bonds sold before Vepco's previous rate cause in 1954 were at a cost of 3.2 per cent a year, whereas its most recent bond issue was sold at a cost of 7.8 per cent per year and rates are even higher today for similar bonds.

Another factor in the rate request is the increasing differential between summer and winter peaks. The amount of electricity Vepco must have to meet its peak summer demand is now 30 per cent higher than its peak winter demand. McGurn pointed out that Vepco must have equipment installed to meet the higher summer demand and the proposed new rates include a higher summer charge designed to counter the widening gap between summer and winter peak loads. This has been done by a number of other companies in the United States.

McGurn said, "In recent years rate reductions were made possible by improved technology and operating techniques, but the company can no longer hold the line against inflationary pressures." He added, "Electric energy is one of the key resources which has supported the vigorous growth of Virginia to date and will be needed to help achieve Virginia's great potential for the future.

"The granting of the requested increase will permit the company to attract necessary capital funds while at the same time providing reliable service for tomorrow as well as today."

The State Corporation Commission is expected to hold public hearings on the proposed new rates at a time to be announced later. At a later date similar applications also will be filed with other regulatory commissions.

BECKHAM

Nov. 25 – Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Martin Sr. were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Drinkard of Lynchburg, Mrs. Larry Yeatts, Cynthia and Gary of Crewe, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Moore, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Martin, Jr., Kathy, and Tammy, Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Carter, Crystal and Karen, Mr. Alfred G. Martin and boys and Mrs. Geraldine Moore and girls.

Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burge and family of Bedford.

Mr. Hal Moore returned home on Saturday after undergoing treatment for some time in Lynchburg General Hospital. Many friends and relatives visited him on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoover Burge and Wanda Thornhill of Hopewell spent Friday night in the home of Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge.

Mrs. R. E. Mays is visiting for sometime with Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Totty of Spout Spring.

Mrs. Mary Burge and Paul Burge accompannied by Mrs. E. C. Jennings visited Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burge, Mr. Courtney Franklin and Mrs John Franklin Sunday afternoon.

Mr. H. O. Martin was Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Martin.

Mrs. W. C. Story, Tony and Irene visited her mother, Mrs. Whorley of Big Island Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moore and Timmy were Saturday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stalling.

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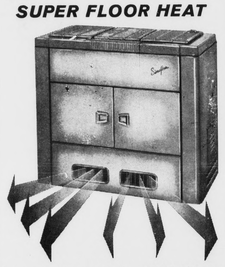

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The Pastor Speaks

The first Thanksgiving Day in America was held to commemorate the harvest of Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621, following a winter of great hardship. Colonists and nearby Indians shared in the first feast. George Washington proclaimed it a National Day of Thanks for November 26, 1789. President Lincoln revived the custom in 1863. Since 1941 the holiday has fallen on the fourth Thursday in November due to a joint resolution of Congress adopted in that year. But the American tendency is to confine most of its thanksgiving to one day a year. Yes, we are thankful for turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, pumpkin pie, and hot rolls on Thanksgiving Day, but what about the other 364 days?

Notice the attitude of the Bible. In Philippians 1:3 Paul says, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." In Colossians 1:3 Paul says, "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you." In Psalms 100:4 David says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise." Thanksgiving according to the Bible is not just a day-a-year attitude. It's a constant expression of our inner gratefulness to the Creator for giving us richly all things to enjoy.

For what can we thank God? For a starter, why not try health, life, food, clothing, family? Sometimes thanksgiving comes to us in a negative sort of way. Have you ever grown bitter over the treachery of friends only to realize gratefully the many dependable friends whom you had? Be thankful for the faithfulness of those who stand by you in toil and trial. Be thankful to God for all that we have in Jesus Christ. In I Peter 2:9 Peter says we are to show forth the praises of the God who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. God reached down from Heaven with his loving hands to pull us from wandering in darkness into orienting ourselves in the light of his will. Be thankful to God for the death of Jesus Christ which is the payment and satisfaction for our sins.

Instead of growing bitter at life, try a constant spirit of thanksgiving. Instead of complaining about things which you lack, be grateful for what you have. Instead of being shortsighted in the face of an abundant harvest of blessings, praise the God who made you for his gifts of goodness and his ever present gift of love through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Thomas D. Lea, Pastor
Liberty Baptist Church
Appomattox, Virginia 24522

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

BEHIND THE LAW

Lesson for November 30, 1969

Background Scripture: Nehemiah 8 through 9.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 199: 89-96.

Many a man has dreamed of rebuilding a city, only to fail because he did not realize that cities require more than brick and mortar and ambitious plans. To build houses, stores, factories, and to pave streets and plan for parks: these activities alone cannot make a city beautiful or comfortable. All the building is in vain unless there is also moral and spiritual building.

When the exiles returned to Jerusalem they found it in ruins. Thus Nehemiah, a close associate of the Persian king, had left his good position to go to Jerusalem and lead the people in a program of reconstruction. Despite great obstacles and many detractors, they began to restore the great city and its temple.

A Man Named Ezra

It became apparent, however, that something else was needed in Jerusalem. Thus, several decades later, another man, a priest and scribe named Ezra, came to Jerusalem to meet that need. As he saw the situation, the people were greatly lacking in their knowledge of God's law. Thus, on the Jewish New Year's Day, he called the people to assemble in the square at Jerusalem so that he might acquaint them with the ancient laws of Israel. Unless they made this law the foundation of their lives he said, their rebuilding of Jerusalem would be in vain. If they lived by this law, however, they would live happy and prosperous lives.

The Better Way

There are many passages in the scriptures which promise us a richer and fuller life if we will live according to God's laws. What is the basis of that promise? Does it mean that if we please God by doing as he commands he will reward us? Much more than that, it means that God's laws spell out for us a way of living that brings us the highest possible satisfaction.

It is not a matter of God forbidding what he does not like, but of forbidding that which is harmful for man and a hindrance to the creative potential God has placed within him. Nor is it a matter of God making arbitrary requests of men, but of setting before them the ways that bring him the greatest good.

In the 1840's one of the most famous teaching hospitals in the world was Vienna's Allegemeine Krankenhaus. In its maternity wards of those days, one out of every six patients died, a mortality rate common throughout the world. When the women died, they were wheeled into the autopsy room where they were examined by physicians and medical students. Afterwards, using rubber gloves, these same men went into the maternity wards to examine their patients.

The Wisdom of the Law

Finally, Dr. Ignaz Semmlweiss was given charge of these wards and observed that it was particularly the women examined by these doctors who died. After three years, he established a rule that every physician who participated in an autopsy would wash his hands before examining a live patient. The mortality rate dropped remarkably and today the practice is routine throughout the world.

Dr. S. I. McMillen, a contemporary physician has observed that Semmelweis had "discovered" what the Jews had been commanded six thousand years earlier when Moses gave God's laws for the handling of the dead and the infected. These commandments had not been arbitrary rules, but the principles that provided for his people's welfare. The Jews did not understand the reason behind these laws; today, however, we know why.

So it is with all the laws of God. We may not always know why they are given to us, but we may be sure that behind the law there is God's provision for our greatest welfare.

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